



State of Connecticut
Latino and Puerto Rican
Affairs Commission

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MINUTES

LPRAC Regular Commission Meeting

April 20, 2016

Legislative Office Building Room 2D

Hartford, CT

5:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present:	Ramón L. Arroyo, Yolanda Castillo, Migdalia Castro, Jay González, George Hernández, Dr. Ruby O'Neill, Dr. Eugene Salorio, Pablo Soto, Feny Taylor, Danny Torres and Elena Trueworthy, M.S.
Commissioners on the phone:	Dr. Agnes Quiñones and Christian Soto
Commissioners Absent:	Richard A. Cruz, Emanuela Palmares and Rubén Rodríguez
Staff:	Werner Oyanadel, Executive Director, Lucia Goicoechea Hernández, Special Projects Coordinator, and Clarisa Cardone, Administrative Assistant

Tape 1 A

As Chairman Cruz was absent, Vice Chair Castillo welcomed everyone to our meeting. She then asked Commissioner Trueworthy, Treasurer to do the roll call. Quorum was not established.

Then Commissioners Dr. Quiñones, C. Soto called in and Dr. Salorio came in. Quorum was established.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

The Honorable Kevin Lembo, State Comptroller of the State of Connecticut regarding the Connecticut Retirement Security Program.

He also said that if they need to make any changes on the translation of the forms from Comptroller Lembo, please tell them.

Vice Chair Castillo acknowledged the presence of State Representatives Arthur O'Neill and Mike France.

Next are speakers Patricia Baker, CEO of the Connecticut Health Foundation and Mary Moran Boudreau, Executive Director of the Connecticut Oral Health Initiative about the Oral Health Advocacy/Grant.

TAPE 1 B

Mary Moran Boudreau, Executive Director of the Connecticut Oral Health Initiative (cont.) spoke about the Husky Dental plan.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made to accept the minutes of March 16, 2016 by Commissioner Quiñones and seconded by Commissioner Hernández.

Motion was adopted by voice vote with two abstentions.

Motion made to amend the minutes by Commissioner O'Neill and seconded by Commissioner Castro.

Motion was adopted by voice vote with one abstention and one nay.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

As Chairman Cruz was absent, Vice Chair Castillo asked if we can take a few minutes to have a moment of silence for the effected families that were affected by the earthquake in Ecuador. The total death already reached 480

and could climb higher with more like 2,500 that were injured. There was a moment of silence. She then asked Mr. Oyanadel that he had made an approach and called do you have any information on how we can help or if you have any information on that that you can share to the commissioners.

Mr. Oyanadel said yes, he made a call to the General Consul, Raúl Erazo earlier today and told him if there is any information that he would like to share with the CT General Assembly or the Governor's office we can help him be a liaison towards government so that we can send public information to the State of Connecticut. We also have a list of places where people can contribute, an official list and it's in your packets. He also mentioned that Commissioner Palmares was going to propose a motion so that we can write a press statement highlighting where people can contribute donations for this efforts.

Commissioner Castro asked if the Consulate is in Connecticut or New York.

Mr. Oyanadel replied Connecticut.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Oyanadel reported the following:

- On April 13, 2016 the Congressional Leaders presented the Congressional gold medal in honor of the 65th Infantry Regiment known as the Borinqueneers which was made up of predominantly Puerto Rican soldiers in Washington, D.C. Connecticut Borinqueneers, Celestino Cordova and Jose Picard were in attendance at this very important ceremony. LPRAC, as I am sure you are aware will celebrate our 10th Anniversary of the Tribute to the Latino Veterans on Wednesday, May 11th at the Old Judiciary Room at the State Capitol. We are actively reviewing the possibility to configure our event to celebrate this historical occasion at our event of May 11th with the hopes to congratulate local Borinqueneers and their families that were unable to travel to Washington, D.C. He is hoping to hear more about those plans with the Special Projects Committee.
- I am also delighted to have participated in the official swearing-in ceremony of the newly promoted Lieutenant Corneal, David Rosado earlier this month. This is an individual that LPRAC had promoted or had endorsed years ago when we promoted him to Major. He told Major Rosado that we needed to have a formal procedure to endorse him currently for the future but the day that he called us to tell us, members of LPRAC that he was being promoted was just only a few days before the actual promotion took place. But normally what we do when we already endorse individuals like that, the protocol follows them throughout the time that they are endorsed by the Commission. So that's the one individual that had been recommended by the Commission at the leadership of former Commissioner Chairman Diaz and so he did not seek an endorsement from us but I wanted to tell everyone from the board that he was promote to the top level in Connecticut, he is the third highest ranking member in the State Police currently and he is of Puerto Rican descent. That is a very historic moment.
- The Prison Gerrymandering OPED that we wrote on behalf of the Commission was picked by a number of media outlets and I attached a copy of the OPED for your review in this packet.
- Also, the Chairman of the Board connected with me through the work of Priorities and Legislation to release the open letter to Congress regarding the Puerto Rican debt crisis. We called every member of the board letting them know we are going to do this, we forwarded a copy of the letter and the majority of the members of the board were supportive of the concept. The day that we released it was the day that CT Mirror picked it up from Washington D.C. and the story actually had a lot of legs once we released it to the media. The letter did not include any specific recommendation, it was a noncommittal statement to urge Congress to act so members of the subcommittees felt it was a good letter and many of you if not most of you wrote feedback to us letting us know that you were supportive of such content written in that letter. He also submitted that letter to Speaker Ryan in Congress and it was an open letter so it was sent out to CT Latino News Media and other media outlets in the state.
- There is one issue that is very important. Many of you are aware that we had a number of activities that have been taken place during the month. This month unlike any other month, we have been very active on the release of a public information outreach media campaign and it is going to be about Lead Poisoning. Today he as a copy of the first video and it is ready to be rolled out on the 25th and so during Public Information he will be happy to play it for everyone. We invested \$100,000 on this project; all that money came from the Department of Public Health (DPH). We spent \$25,000 on the production of the content which has been monitored by the DPH for content and \$75,000 were used to be able to sell it to Univision, Telemundo, all the print media, all the radio stations, social media it is a very comprehensive approach. We are doing this media campaign in English, Portuguese and Spanish. It will be released officially on the 25th. The content of the messaging as you will see is done by cast members that we hired to do the work, no commissioner played in the videos. We will have a second component for this campaign where we are going to interview probably the Chairman of the Commission to speak about this with the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health during public service announcements that will be released around Connecticut to bring context to the campaign. We are pretty excited that most of the work is already being finished, we are ready to roll it out and he would be happy to release that information which is embargoed until the 25th so that you can at least see the spot number one, one of two that will be released. The first one will highlight the problem that is happening, we are calling it a "Silent Danger"

because sometimes lead poisoning is not something that you can see, the dust of lead poisoning and the second spot video will highlight how mothers or families need to clean their homes when they do have lead poisoning. The Department of Public Health is so excited with the work that they have done so far that they have shared with him that the Federal Government through the CDC is willing to give us an additional \$100,000 so that we can continue expanding rolling out on this campaign. That is excellent news; we are releasing it to you today.

Motion made to accept the Executive Director's Report by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioner Castro.

Discussion:

Commissioner O'Neill asked on the letter of the economic crisis, it said the large majority of its member were in agreement, was there an official vote taken on this and how do we know how many people were contacted and how many people...was there a vote.

Mr. Oyanadel said that he contacted the Executive Board to explain to them that Congress was about to take action on the Bill so the timing was of essence. He explained to the Executive Board that we did not have time until the Commission meeting to make the decision or the issue would have been a mute issue. The concept that he received from and the feedback that he received from the E-Board that the urgency was heard, that they asked him to contact all members of the board, like we do in instances like that, he contacted every single board member, all the board members responded to him with the exception of Commissioner O'Neill, she responded but she said that she would not support the letter but everybody else was tallied and everybody voted in support of it.

Commissioner O'Neill asked do we have like electronic buttons like for voting, can we vote electronically.

Vice Chair Castillo replied no.

Motion was adopted by voice vote with one abstention.

PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Oyanadel said that since **Commissioner Chris Soto, Chair of this Committee** is not here, we will table the report.

PRIORITIES & LEGISLATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Quiñones reported that we don't have much to report regarding the 20 bills that we have been following because of what is happening in the State Legislature in regards to the state budget. If we know more, we will share this information. The Latino Policy Day is scheduled for January 2017. We have set ourselves a due date of October 1st because we have to work with potential partners and being able to secure some funding. We are working very hard trying to make sure that we do secure our sponsors; cosponsors and that we seek some monetary donations and some grants. Mr. Rodríguez is very diligently working to secure some of those. As soon as she gets back to normal, she has already had some initial conversations with some of her colleagues in the financial world. Some of the panels that we had discussed we are going to bring them for full discussion as we get near the October 1st due date has to do with some equity assistance, non bi-partisan redistricting, the teen pregnancy prevention program, bilingual parents advisory committee having something similar like in the state, and putting together some advocacy groups that will help us to facilitate some networking during the lunch break. Those are the kind of things that we have talked about informally and she is beginning to draft an agenda for that meeting. These are the main items out of her report, looking forward to reconvening the meeting for her committee next month and be able to have a better sense of where we are at with the proposed legislations as the session comes to an end.

Motion made to accept the Priorities and Legislation Committee Report by Commissioner Pablo Soto and seconded by Commissioner Hernández.

Mr. Oyanadel then showed the video "Saca el Plomo" regarding the Lead Poisoning.

Discussion:

Commissioner Salorio had two comments, 1) That the music is too loud, can't really hear the voices clearly and 2) Given that it is a warning about lead, about a deadly poison, why is it a soothing music.

Mr. Oyanadel said great feedback, he will forward that to the team. I am sure that when you see it on the media, it will have a different volume for the sound and maybe a different musical background. We will also have brochures with information in Spanish, Portuguese and English, flyers and magnets that we will distribute at public events so that parents can actually put that information on their refrigerators so they can know who to contact if they have a question. We are going to be trained by the Department of Public Health when we go to public events, how to

communicate this message to our population. This is the first one; this is about the silent danger. The next one is going to be about instructing our mothers or parents or uncles how to clean their homes. The next video is going to be very tricky because we don't want to offend anybody if we tell them that they don't know how to clean their homes. We are trying to be very culturally sensitive, we are trying to use the appropriate language and the message needs to be on content.

Commissioner Hernández commented that the word "saca" el plomo de tu casa does not really communicate the message, "remueve" el plomo de tu casa. Just a suggestion that whoever is helping in the process of translating the documentation as a transcript that they look at that term. Because that terminology can be misleading in following up with the urgency which is to really remove the lead from your home, I think remove is more...something to think about.

Commissioner Arroyo said that he mentioned that there was \$100,000 for these particular spot, 30 seconds and it is going to be in different medias outlet, there is also, I assume, that there is going to be flyers or things like that put out there in the different communities to understand what the problem with lead is and also how to remove it, I do concur with Commissioner Hernández that the wording needs to be modified so that it has an emphasis, that movie did not have much emphasis on it, I concur with Commissioner Hernández on that.

Mr. Oyanadel said it is great feedback, this is a media campaign so primarily, most of the funding is going to reach the media with content but because we know that we sometimes cannot do it with the media alone, we included in the RFP that we need to produce flyers, brochures in Portuguese, Spanish and English, magnets that will be included. We are going to target three locations in Connecticut, we are going to reach the whole state of Connecticut but we have three cities that have a high concentration of lead poisoning for children, those are the cities of Bridgeport, New Haven and Waterbury and that's cities where we also have a high concentration of Latinos. He is personally going to go to all the Churches in those three cities, as many Churches that he can possibly go, radio stations are going to be covered for those regions as well, we are going to social community places where children may be at and we will put information at the schools so it's a very comprehensive approach. So the short answer to your question is yes and yes to the questions about changing the language, I will make sure our vendors are given that feedback.

Commissioner O'Neill asked Mr. Oyanadel if he thinks that perhaps the reason why they had the gentle tone of voice and nice soft music was to elicit these more affiliative responses from the viewer of "Oh the baby" cause the children cause it's all about the children and to elicit those attachment and affiliative responses and then juts opposed it with the images of that ugly clearly toxic window, she can see, as a Developmental Psychologist, she can see why they put it together the way they did. The music may be too loud with this equipment but I don't know if it is really going to be loud when it get across on the tv but she understands why they did it that way, why it is so soft and so gentle and then in contrast to that ugliness.

Mr. Oyanadel said that it is a great comment. The work that was done with this production was done through the lenses of a Puerto Rican Producer. A local recognized an award winning producer that is Puerto Rican. He actually thought out the content and he did a lot of research to actually project it in this venue. He thinks maybe with the volume tone, we can change it a little bit and maybe use the word "saca" and incorporate the word "remover". I think that those are amicable comments, DPH experts also put a lot of feedback into looking at this and making sure that this is something that will work so he thinks that what you are saying is true. So, obviously we are not going to appease everybody with the content, certainly we are going to get difference of opinions.

Commissioner Torres said that he is a realtor and any house built before 1978 has lead in it, that's when they invented latex paint. They don't remove the lead and paint the house, all they do is the walls get capsulated with a rubberized paint, they put ___ above the doors and windows because it is cheaper to remove them and the floors just get a rug. That's good enough. It is going to be lead safe, not lead free.

Mr. Oyanadel said that they talked about that in great length. The DPH is not asking for a full abatement process, what we are telling people is that there are ways that they can maintain it, control it and clean it. And the next video, which you will get a video review hopefully before, actually it is going to be released during the month so you may not get a lot of feedback; he'll send it to you so you can see it and hopefully send him some feedback also. In that video, we plan to show them inexpensive cost effective ways of doing this cleanup without doing the full abatement process.

Commissioner Arroyo said that he mentioned in your propaganda process, you mentioned certain cities, there are also the cities that have a lot of Latinos as residents, what is the process to how you or we going to reach them, you said the whole state but he thinks that there are about 5 or 6 cities in this state that is the highest concentration of Latinos which is what this ad is for so if you are going to be going to certain areas, then basically he thinks you are going to need the assistance of some other groups in the cities that you mentioned to help in promoting this issue.

Mr. Oyanadel said that it is also a great comment. Actually Hartford is the fourth city that is highly affected; the production was actually made here in Hartford. The content of the media campaign is to allow us to reach the most amount of our population via all the television paid airtime which is what we are paying with most of this money. We purchased airtime through Univision, Telemundo both from the Boston region which covers most of the state but we also had to pay New York Univision and Telemundo so that they can also air that information for the region that affects Bridgeport and New Haven. When we were doing this process, we also learned that young mothers are

probably not even watching Univision or Telemundo anymore. Young mothers are probably in social media more than anywhere else so we also invested some money to be able to send this information out throughout Connecticut through social media towards the target ages that we are shooting for. In addition to that, La Puertorriqueñísima is going to have this information on the radio, La Bomba is going to have this information aired time and time again, La Voz Hispana is going to have a full page ad on this program, we will have La Tribuna, we will have Radio Cumbre, we will have all the Latino media sending this information out. Because our resources are limited and we don't have a lot of staff, we are going to try to target those three areas because it was written in the grant that we needed to reach those three areas but that does not limit us from participating in other public events around the region like Meriden, Hartford and other areas around Connecticut where we have a high concentration of Latinos so that we can hand out that information that we have. We are planning to go everywhere that they invite us or everywhere that we can go in our personal time, and our state time and sending this information out to anybody that we can connect anywhere in Connecticut.

Commissioner Trueworthy commented that she thought it was a remarkable video with the suggested changes it can be even better. She is just excited that we are a part of something that doesn't happen often enough. There isn't enough public awareness built on these critical health issues that we are trying to tack at a policy level but also part of our mission is to build awareness and knowledge and so kudos to the staff and to the commissioners who are involved and to our partners out there and you can tell by the additional funding that is going to be coming down to do more of this, she thinks that this is possibly just the beginning so she's just very excited about the high quality of production that was done.

Commissioner Castro said that Mr. Oyanadel mentioned the radio, the media in print and also the tv and was wondering if you included also the media with the Churches because there is radio, for example, in New Haven we have Radio Love and they reach a big population of Christians so she was wondering if there is a list that also could be disseminated that would be great because a lot of people listen to the Church radio.

Mr. Oyandel mentioned that in addition to the programs or the videos that you saw here which are intended for the Latino media, we are also going to produce Public Service Announcements. These announcements are going to be made with the Chairman of LPRAC making a statement about this public information campaign; it also will be along side of the Commissioner of Public Health, Commissioner Pino who both of them are going to be putting together these PSA's. Those PSA's are meant to be distributed to local media outlets like the ones that we are highlighting here. He will be contacting you to see if you have a list so that we can actually send our PSA's to them.

Tape 2 A

Commissioner Castro said that there are probably more in New Haven but she doesn't know the information for them but she can provide the information for Radio Amor.

Motion was adopted by voice vote.

SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Torres, Chair of this Committee announced the following:

- We have two full scholarships to award from E.C.S.U. Once we receive all the applications for the scholarships this year, we will come up with the criteria for making this award, incorporate the two that the university requested and apply it to all those who qualify to see who receive this from the pool of candidates.
- The committee wishes for each of us to assist in the sales of tickets using the 3 X 100 campaign that is 100 professionals buying collectively 100 tickets at \$100.00 each. In exchange, they will receive the ticket, their name on the perpetual plaque that hangs in the office along with a 20th Year Anniversary Commemorative Coin. Please bring professionals to participate so that we can fill all 104 slots in the plaque.
- We ask that you help us sell the lithographs as well, if we sell 100 we will bring in \$8,000. These are primary for anyone who says they cannot attend the event, yet they can buy a lithograph.
- We are waiting to hear from Yale University, the University of Hartford and Central Connecticut State University to see if they will provide a full scholarship as well. UCONN turned us down due to the budget situation.
- The 10th Anniversary Tribute to the Latino Veterans, this event is coming up quickly on May 11th starting at 5:30 p.m. Due to the budget constraints, we are unable to offer any food. But if you know anyone who may donate funds or food, please let the staff know as they are trying to identify someone who may help us out, we should need about \$1,200. We are also looking for at least 5 other Veterans for the award, currently we have 7 and another 7 pending. It will be great to make it to an even 20 on our 10th Anniversary.
- We will not be able to offer breakfast or lunch at the Retreat on September 17th, 2016 however if staff can identify someone to bring the food in, we can all pitch in to cover both meals ourselves. Hours for the event will be from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., if we bring in the food ourselves, it will save us some lunch time and maybe cut down to 30 or 45 minutes less.

Motion made to accept the Special Projects Committee Report by Commissioner Castro and seconded by Commissioner Hernández.

Discussion:

Commissioner Quiñones thanked the committee for putting the application together, it looks very good. Observation, the questions on page 3, 1-5, does any member of the household, etc., etc. why are we asking for the name of the supervisor? Why do we have to ask that information? She doesn't think that is relevant, as long as we know the agency that they work with, you can on-line figure out whether in fact this person does work for this agency. She doesn't think it's appropriate for us to be asking the name of the supervisor. And as a general observation, those questions that I know why we are asking them, they are the exact same thing this if I am reading the application, and I go to the next page and I review the scholarship eligibility exclusions, it's the same thing. So, I work for the state and I report to a public official and I can't apply. If I am a public official or any of my family members of my household can't apply, I know what you are trying to do but to her we are doing the exact same thing in those two sections. However she does understand that you want the applicant answer the questions in for herself.

Commissioner Castillo responded that she appreciates her questions and her statement that she has given us but right now that will be under New Business because then we'll discuss the motions to accept these applications and the things have been done so she would like to be able to accept the Special Projects Committee Report.

Commissioner Arroyo asked on the Special Projects Report concerning the 10th Annual Veteran's Day on May 11th, 2016, maybe, there is the Spanish American Merchants Association (SAMA) who has been very, very cooperative in many things in the community, maybe that is someone that we can probably ask them to see how they can help us or donate food for that event. He thinks that Julio Mendoza who is the Executive Director of SAMA, if we approach him, maybe he cannot give us the total amount of what is needed but at least he can probably share some of that and then he will make it easier for other organizations hopefully to contribute to the cost for that particular date. He thinks that it all depends, in life it's everything how you put it together, and if you approach them and tell them what this is all about, about the 65th Infantry Borinqueneers, the Veteran's, that can change some thoughts and some ideas and people can come in and contribute into that particular date and event. He thinks that this is one thing that as a staff person who is dealing with it, approach and hopefully we can get that. When we used to have resources, we used to go to someone in New Britain, we spent money with them and this time around this hand wash and this hand wash and the two wash the face. Maybe we can ask that particular vendor that we used to use a lot when we were in a very good financial position to see how they can help in providing the food for that event.

Motion was adopted by voice vote.

RBA COMMITTEE

Commissioner Pablo Soto reported that they did not have a meeting in April. Our next RBA session is on Thursday, June 2nd, 2016 in New Haven, CT. Commissioner Salorio will moderate the event and he thanked him for that. We will have a somewhat brief meeting before that date to tie up any loose ends for about 30 minutes or so, that will be coming in May, somewhere in the beginning or the middle of May. This is based on the Lead Poisoning as well, he encourages everyone to invite others and if you can participate as well, come on down on that date. More information as far as date and time will be available by the next board meeting.

Commissioner Salorio said that it will be held at the Wilson Library, 303 Washington Avenue, New Haven, CT. They have been working on preparing some slides for it and in a break with some previous RBA turn the curve sessions were from 45 minutes to 60 minutes just on how to do RBA. We are going to have two or three slides that saying turn the curve and then we are going to focus on lead and turn it over to the participants. Mr. Rodríguez has raised a really good question, he said "Our RBA turn the curve event on lead poisoning is focused on Hispanic Communities. As we know, lead poisoning is a problem in urban areas where other ethnic groups also live and is not limited to Latinos. By Statute, LPRAC is focused on the needs of Latino community; we must be careful to not impose our policy agenda on other commissions or appear to be speaking for non-Latino groups. We may be asked why this event is targeted at Hispanic children. There are a lot of other children particular in lower income groups that suffer from lead poisoning." He doesn't really have an answer but it is something for us to think about.

Motion made to accept the RBA Committee Report by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Hernández.

Discussion:

Commissioner Torres said that back to our Waterbury, Bridgeport and New Haven, they have a higher amount of Hispanics because there is a higher amount of multi-families. When you get to Milford and Groton they have single family houses that are owner occupied. This is why there are more Hispanics and there's lead paint because they are renters. There are less Hispanic homeowners than there are non-Hispanics.

Commissioner O'Neill said do you think if anyone mentions that we might be neglecting the non-Latino community that we can just resort to State Statute Section 2-120 which statutorily requires us to focus on the health of the Latino community. We are covered with that, that's our goal. That's our reason to exist.

Commissioner Arroyo said that he thinks that the comment of Commissioners Salorio and O'Neill but we also are the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission, no disrespect to any other communities but there are other communities that also have their commissions that they can also be addressing this issue as well and basically he doesn't think that we discriminate against anyone because our mandate is to making sure that our community is basically being served because if that has been asked to him, they asked him that question not too long ago concerning the Latino Veterans and he told him you have, an African American person, the African American Commission, why don't you ask them to also do something for their Black Brothers. He thinks our mandate is for the Latino community and we should just do that and he doesn't believe that we are violating any laws.

Commissioner Castro remembered a little while ago when she asked a question in regards to the lead poisoning and when we asked the information, the regular media was informed, the regular individuals that live in the state were informed, there was nothing for Latinos. She believes that this commission and our role is to do exactly that is to advocate for Puerto Ricans and Latinos in the state, that is what we are and that is what we tell them. We are the Commission of Puerto Rican and Latinos and that is what we are making changes to impact the lives of those.

Commissioner Torres said if you have a Hispanic child on the third floor and there is lead based paint, the Health Department will come in and inspect the third floor, the second floor, the first floor, the hallways and the outside so by default then the other two apartments that are not Hispanic they will get the same thing out of it by default.

Commissioner Hernández said point of clarification, he believes we are in the Results Based Accountability Comm. Report so if we can keep the conversation remained to the RBA Comm. Report and he would call to question.

Motion was adopted by voice vote.

NEW AND OLD BUSINESS

Motion made for the approval of the Juan Fuentes Vizcarrondo Youth Scholarship Application for 2016 by Commissioner Torres and seconded by Commissioner Hernández.

Discussion:

Commissioner Castro has a concern that the awards are given based on financial needs or is it also grades and accomplishments of the students.

Commissioner Torres explained that there is a point system for need, 55% for financial need and there is a sliding scale for grade, community involvement and there are 5 requirements.

Commissioner Castro is concerned that when we ask questions, she understands the conflict of interest of those who are related to staff, those who are related to commissioners but what she doesn't understand whatever it is about the politics or that because it raises her concern discrimination begin though that they do qualify. She is concerned that this commission should look into getting an opinion from a Corporate Counsel here in regards to that because she doesn't want to see us being sued for excluding somebody that does qualify on the merits of what we are saying. If they do qualify and you are leaving them out because they are family member of somebody who is politically connected or whatever she doesn't think we should ask the question. We have a grant, a scholarship in New Haven, it was named after an Alderman, and basically the merits are of the grant with the financial need is one and the other one is grades and it is basically it doesn't matter who your father is, if you have done a great job and you qualify then you should be able to be considered, or your mom.

Commissioner Quiñones wanted to raise again for consideration that on page three of the actual application, either Juan Fuentes Vizcarrondo's or Antonio Pantoja's applications, the question about the supervisor is not appropriate for us to be asking. It is just a matter of deleting that section, that it be amended.

Commissioner Arroyo suggested that if we have three or four or five awards and they all have the same questions, why don't we have just one as an example for the rest, why would we want to go individually for each individual award when they have the same questions.

Commissioner Hernández said point of order, just by way of procedurally, you are correct and so he believes that with the discussions leading us all to as a commission, as a body, is leading us to request that the Chair of the Committee that presented the motion to accept on a one by one basis the three applications that rather than present so if we can rescind that motion, present an omnibus motion, an omnibus motion is that all three applications as redacted and edited and vetted by the committee be presented to this body so for the sake of expediency and also for the sake of efficiency that we can then vote on just one motion to accept the three applications which have the same template attached to them, the template in terms of the questions, the template in terms of the transparency issues that this committee has taken hours to vet. He would respectfully call the order for the presenter of the motion to consider an omnibus motion.

Commissioner Torres said that it is fine with him; he will make a friendly amendment to add the second and the third motion which is the approval of the Dr. Antonio Pantoja, GED Scholarship Application 2016 and the approval for Nomination for Information for the Latina, Latino & Community Service Awards 2016 seconded by Commissioner Hernández.

Commissioner Salorio commends Special Projects for the great work on this. Thank you, he is sure it took an incredible amount of work because he knows it's been very trying getting this far. He has a couple of questions/apologies. He knows what is meant by Dreamers, he suspects that everybody here knows what is meant by Dreamers, he is not so confident that everybody who is going to read this will know what it is meant. Second, you must be of Latino Heritage, what does that mean, are Brazilians Latino, they don't consider themselves, those are minor things but ok. He is more concerned about some of the scholarship eligibility exclusions and he understands why they are there and he understands their well intention but they really seem to be an overreach on a number of them. For instance, public officials and/or their family and/or household members are not eligible for the scholarship, he agrees completely. He may not provide letter of support for scholarship applicants, what if he is a public official, his spouse is a High School teacher, she has a scholarship applicant who is a student in her class, and she can't provide a recommendation for that student that seems awful extreme. His spouse will tell you she's an independent person, he thinks all of our spouses will tell us that and we will tell that to all of our spouses. He finds that very broad and basic. Family members, we are excluding a lot of people. At the municipal level, public officials, Mayor and First Selectmen or Town Manager. They are all excluded from all this too, he understands the intent but in going to make this non-political, it seems that we are excluding way too many people.

Mr. Oyanadel also wants to commend the committee for an amount of work that they did it's just incredible. He thinks before you vote on these decisions you need to have a history of this, very simple it's that we really want to exclude people that are related to elected officials from participating in the scholarship. What happened in years past is that there was a confusion as to how we define a public official. I think what we have done through this committee is to really put it in writing how we as a commission define who is eligible and who is not eligible and for instance, if you get your Apple phone and you sign into an upgrade you get a long list of things you have to do before signing into that phone, we normally don't read them but we ok it. He has a feeling that the kids that are going to be applying to this scholarship are going to read that but probably 99% of the kids are not going to have any relation to the people that we are excluding but we need to indicate who we define public officials and that is what the committee attempted to do through this process. Speaking as a member of the committee, he did not support this recommendation originally but thinking it through, participating in the process, he supports it because he thinks this will really help us define who a public official is.

Commissioner Arroyo agrees with Commissioner Salorio, this is an overreach. He has been here a while and he had never seen what happened last year before which basically he was kind of surprised. We always had an unwritten rule, it was never written but it was always there that we were not going to allow a candidate that was running for office to be nominated by this commission or someone that was sitting in a position of leadership that basically oversees us in a way. That happened last year and it was probably the first time. We do not need to put it in writing, what you need to do is do the diligence of the committee that is doing and us to see who is the one that are requesting the scholarships and then basically decide that. He just cannot support it because he thinks we are just overreaching this.

Commissioner Castro has a friendly amendment that is somebody of anybody a child who is going to school and merits true their needs and somebody else presents it, the person who is in the commission should just abstain from lobbying or advocating or voting. That is basically it. Why penalize that young man or young lady that qualifies.

Commissioner Torres does not accept the friendly amendment because they had multiple meeting and voted on it as a committee and it is his responsibility is to bring it forward as it was voted as a committee.

Commissioner O'Neill said that with regards to overreach, with regards to public official that is a statutory definition, we didn't in the committee come up with these definitions. Family members we started with people you can't marry and these are at least the rules you have in a sweepstake and LPRAC is a higher caliber than a sweepstakes. All of these guidelines are meant to avoid influences.

Tape 2 B

Motion was adopted by voice vote.

Motion made to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. by Commissioner Trueworthy and seconded by Commissioner Hernández. Motion was adopted by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by,

Emanuela Palmares
Secretary
LPRAC Board

EPL:cjc